TESTIMONY OF
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 26, 2015

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **opposes** HB-6705, **AN ACT REQUIRING THE PREVAILING WAGE BE PAID ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THAT RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OR ANY AGENCY OF THE STATE**

HB-6705 leaves many of Connecticut's plumbing, heating, and cooling contractors "out in the cold" by requiring private businesses to adopt prevailing wages if they work on private projects that may receive "financial assistance" from the state.

The prevailing wage is an hourly wage paid to workers that includes fringe benefits, such as health insurance and pension contributions. If an employer does not provide fringe benefits, the amount of the benefit must go to the worker as additional pay. This makes a worker's hourly benefit rate often close to or more than 50% of the required hourly wage.

Connecticut's small and midsize contractors simply cannot bear the administrative and financial burdens that prevailing wages place on them. By extending the prevailing wage mandate to private construction projects, HB-6705 will make small and midsize contractors less competitive for state and federally funded construction projects and will force contractors to cut crucial jobs.

Connecticut's various economic development programs for private sector businesses large and small have helped grow jobs and assist in our state's economic recovery. Unfortunately, HB-67051 would undermines this progress.

We therefore urge the committee to **reject** HB-6705.

CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.